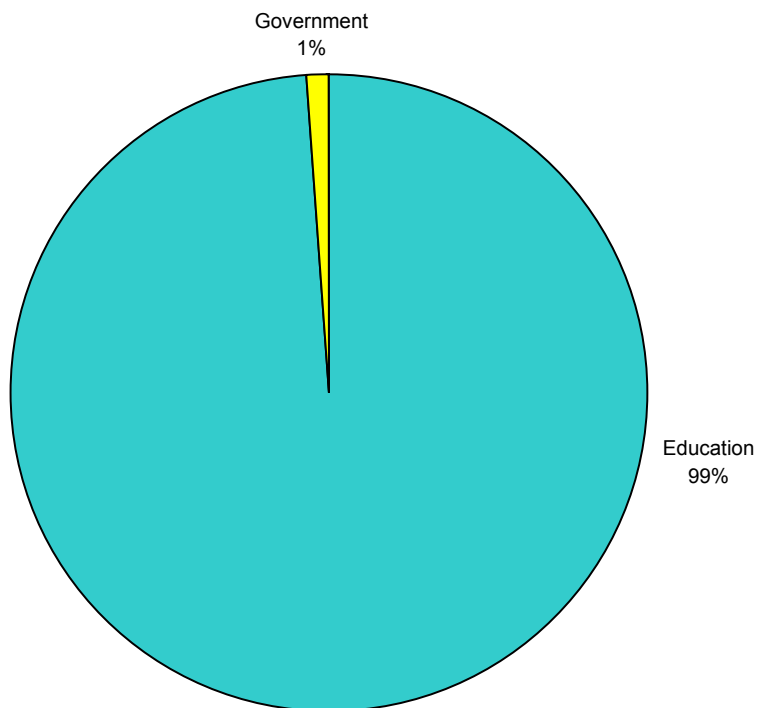


Job Description

Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using interactive discussions and “hands-on” learning to help students learn and apply concepts. As teachers move away from the traditional repetitive drill approaches and rote memorization, they are using more “props” or “manipulatives” to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought processes. For example, they teach the concepts of numbers or adding and subtracting by playing board games. Elementary school teachers play a vital role in the development of children. What children learn and experience during their early years can shape their views of themselves and the world, and affect later success or failure in school, work, and their personal lives. Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers introduce children to numbers, language, science, and social studies. They may use games, music, artwork, films, books, computers, and other tools to teach basic skills. Most elementary school teachers instruct one class of children in several subjects. In some schools, two or more teachers work as a team and are jointly responsible for a group of students in at least one subject. In other schools, a teacher may teach one special subject—usually music, art, reading, science, arithmetic, or physical education—to a number of classes. A small but growing number of teachers instruct multilevel classrooms, with students at several different learning levels.

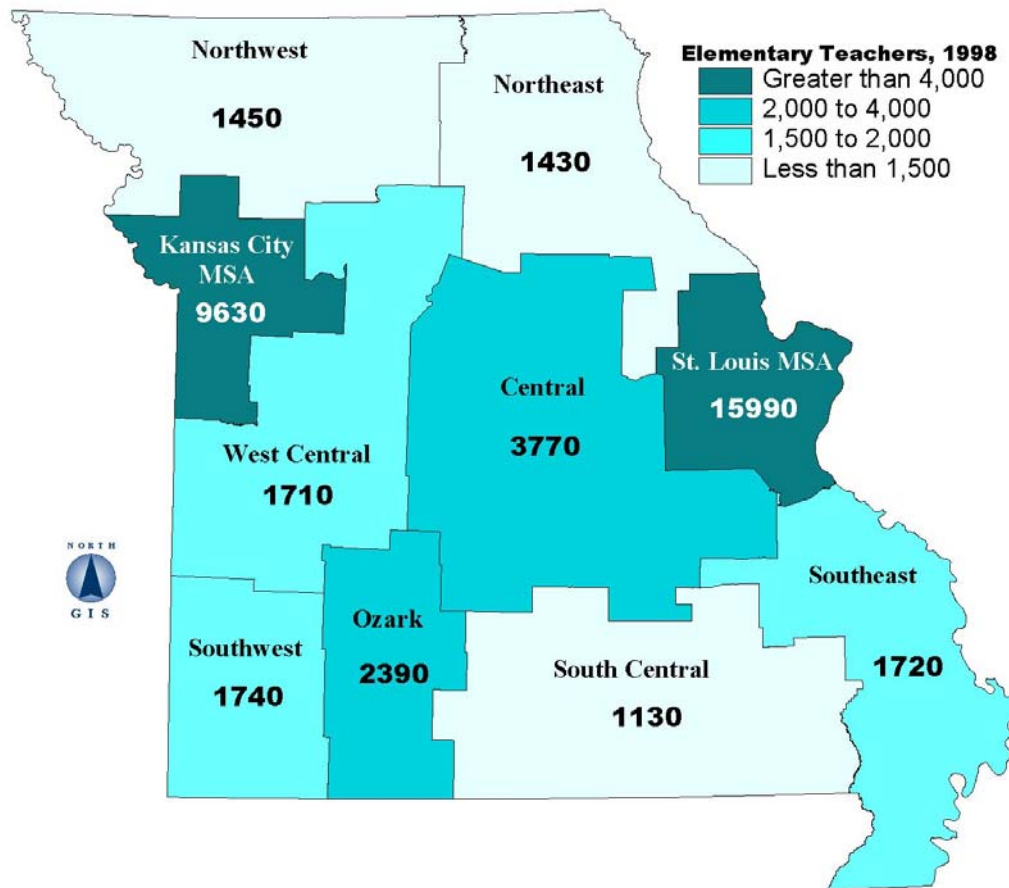
Employment by Industry



Employment Trends

| Region | Employment | | Projected Growth | Percent Change | Average Annual Openings |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | 1998 | 2008 | | | |
| United States | 1,754,000 | 1,959,000 | 205,000 | 11.7% | 610,000 |
| Missouri | 35,100 | 38,970 | 3,870 | 11.0% | 1,200 |
| Northwest Region | 1,450 | 1,600 | 150 | 10.3% | 48 |
| Northeast Region | 1,430 | 1,570 | 140 | 9.8% | 48 |
| Kansas City MSA | 9,630 | 10,860 | 1,230 | 12.8% | 346 |
| West Central Region | 1,710 | 1,830 | 120 | 7.0% | 51 |
| Central Region | 3,770 | 4,210 | 440 | 11.7% | 130 |
| St. Louis MSA | 15,990 | 17,670 | 1,680 | 10.5% | 537 |
| Southwest Region | 1,740 | 1,940 | 200 | 11.5% | 60 |
| Ozark Region | 2,390 | 2,810 | 420 | 17.6% | 97 |
| South Central Region | 1,130 | 1,300 | 170 | 15.4% | 43 |
| Southeast Region | 1,720 | 1,870 | 150 | 8.7% | 55 |

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Projections Unit



Wage Information

| Region | Average Annual Wage |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| United States | \$41,980 |
| Missouri | \$34,440 |
| Northwest Region | \$30,526 |
| Northeast Region | \$28,812 |
| Kansas City MSA | \$33,590 |
| West Central Region | \$28,762 |
| Central Region | \$30,814 |
| St. Louis MSA | \$39,020 |
| Southwest Region | \$30,749 |
| Ozark Region | \$29,831 |
| South Central Region | \$29,284 |
| Southeast Region | \$32,799 |

Elementary Teachers in Missouri make \$34,440 per year, somewhat less than the national average. The occupation requires a baccalaureate and passage of the Certifying examination.

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Occupational Employment Statistics Unit

Typical Tasks

- Lectures, demonstrates, and uses audiovisual aids and computers to present subject matter.
- Teaches subjects, such as math, science, or social studies.
- Prepares course objectives and outlines, following requirements of state and school.
- Prepares, administers, and corrects tests, and records results.
- Assigns lessons, corrects papers, and hears oral presentations.
- Teaches rules of conduct and maintains discipline and suitable learning environment.
- Evaluates performance and discusses with parents.
- Keeps attendance and grade records.
- Prepares reports as required by school.
- Counsels pupils when adjustment and academic problems arise.

- Supervises outdoor and indoor play activities.
- Teaches combined grade classes.
- Attends staff meetings, serves on committees, and attends workshops or training activities.
- Coordinates class field trips.
- Prepares bulletin boards.

Skills Needed

- Instructing
- Speaking
- Learning Strategies
- Reading Comprehension
- Social Perceptiveness
- Writing
- Active Listening
- Implementation Planning
- Information Organization
- Monitoring

Preparation and Licensing Requirements

Necessary Education

- Baccalaureate Degree
- Recommendation from Approved School
- Early Childhood (Birth to Grade 3)
- Elementary Education (Grades 1 to 6)

Certification

This occupation requires certification in Missouri. With a recommendation from their school, graduates may apply to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to take Specialty Area Tests. A passing grade is required to teach in Missouri. Re-Certification and advancement of Certification is available upon completion of additional requirements.

Job Outlook

- Job opportunities for Elementary Teachers should be excellent.
- Employment is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations.
- Many vacancies will result from the need to replace retiring teachers.

Intense competition for good teachers is already under way among employers in many locations, with schools luring teachers from other States and districts with bonuses and higher pay. Teachers who are geographically mobile and who obtain licensure in more than one subject should have a distinct advantage in finding a job. Increasing enrollments of minorities, coupled with a shortage of minority teachers, should intensify efforts to recruit minority teachers. Also, the number of non-English speaking students has grown dramatically, creating demand for bilingual teachers and those who teach English as a second language.

For More Information

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*Other Sources: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Missouri CHOICES, O*Net.*